

Adaptive Learning with Cerego at Arizona State University's Global Freshman Academy (GFA)

Challenge

Global Freshman Academy (GFA), the offering from Arizona State University, set out to provide the same engaging experience as the university's in-person courses with an online class environment in which students could effectively learn and interact with course material while increasing retention for the long-term.

Solution

In 2015, GFA implemented Cerego's adaptive learning platform into three introductory courses – Solar Systems Astronomy, Western Civilization, and Human Origins – to create a more seamless learning experience for students and faculty within this unique program. These courses were designed to build foundational knowledge early in students' careers, a perfect fit with Cerego's approach of increasing core knowledge to achieve mastery. With Cerego, GFA instructors can monitor their students' retention and engagement with course material, alter their lesson plans to review weak material, and ensure students are on the path to success.

Learning impact outcomes

The impact of Cerego's integration is exemplified by the progress made in the GFA Health and Wellness course in Spring A 2019. In this course, 436 students completed all Cerego sets, while 141 students completed only some of the sets. The average grade in the course for students who completed all sets was 12% higher, while the midterm scores from this group were 9% higher and the final exam scores were 9% higher. These consistently higher scores across the board demonstrate how effective Cerego is for improving the learning experience and helping students achieve mastery.

Students Course Scores Based on Cerego Engagement in
GFA's Health and Wellness Course (Spring A 2019)



“When Cerego is demoed to faculty who will be using it in their courses, the learning curve is short and instructors look forward to implementing it,” said Heather Nebrich, Instructional Design Specialist at ASU. “Professors comment on how clean, straightforward, user-friendly and interactive the platform is, which benefits not only their students, but them as well.”

Return on investment

What started with three introductory courses has grown into a more comprehensive program because of the unfaltering success of students using Cerego. ASU has now integrated Cerego into 10 courses and over 23,000 students have used Cerego as part of their coursework since 2015.

Professors have access to a learning dashboard allowing them to track every student's progress and understand where they are struggling. This leads to a better understanding of individual student progress, as well as the class as a whole, helping instructors identify where content alterations are needed and when to intervene with individual students. In this way, Cerego is creating a more efficient teaching process as well, by reducing teaching times for professors, freeing up time to focus on individual guidance, and developing additional plans.